



**DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling**

**For Your Information...**

## Learn to Become a 'Green' Driver

There's much more to driving a car than putting gasoline in it, buckling your seat belt and happily heading down the highway. There are all kinds of responsibilities associated with driving, including driving safely, being properly insured and maintaining your vehicle.

There is another responsibility that you may not often think about – the impact that your car or truck has on the environment.

Think about it. There are fluids that your car requires to run safely and smoothly. Those fluids – including oil, antifreeze, gasoline, brake, power steering, transmission and windshield wiper fluids – must be properly stored, disposed and/or recycled. Tires and batteries must be maintained correctly and also properly disposed of or recycled. Proper maintenance of your vehicle saves energy, money and the time and cost of repairs.

Listed on this fact sheet are tips on how to become a "green" driver – that is, how to do all the necessary things to protect the environment, save energy and conserve natural resources.

The popular slogan "reduce, reuse, recycle" also can apply to certain vehicle fluids. When handling them, remember to keep them separate from each other. Do not mix them and never pour them on the ground or down the drain. Automobile fluids are extremely toxic and harmful to the environment. By recycling and/or proper disposal, you can prevent soil and water contamination as well as damage to septic tank and wastewater treatment facilities.

### Used Motor Oil, Power Steering Fluid and Transmission Fluid

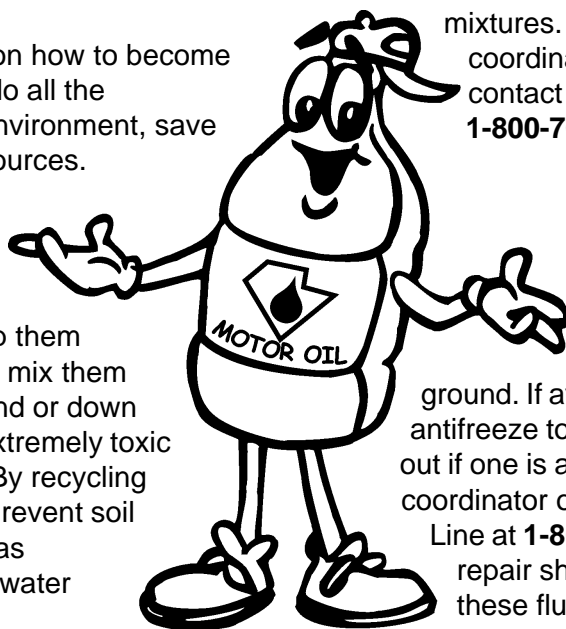
According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), the oil from one oil change is enough to contaminate 1 million gallons of fresh water. Take the used oil, power steering fluid or transmission fluid in a leak proof container to one of the more than 700 sites across South Carolina that accepts used oil for recycling. Call the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's (DHEC) Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling at **1-800-768-7348** for a location near you.

### Gasoline and Windshield Wiper Fluid

Use it all. If fluid remains, store it safely. Some communities have special tanks for oil/gasoline mixtures. Call your local recycling coordinator for more information or contact DHEC's Recycling Hot Line at **1-800-768-7348**.

### Antifreeze and Brake Fluid

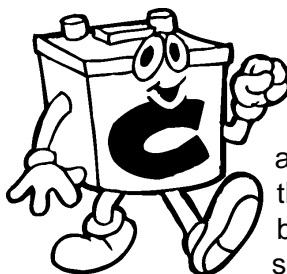
Do not pour them in the sink, septic tank, storm drain or on the ground. If available in your area, take antifreeze to a special collection tank. To find out if one is available, call your local recycling coordinator or contact DHEC's Recycling Hot Line at **1-800-768-7348**. Also, ask your repair shop or car dealer if they will accept these fluids.



**DID YOU KNOW?** Nearly 200 million worn passenger tires are generated each year in the U.S. Some are recycled into products like rubber mats or footwear, while others are burned as fuel or retreaded and sold again. Recycling and retreading keep millions of tires out of the landfill each year.

## Oil Filters and Bottles

Puncture hole in dome of filter and remove rubber gasket. Drain and collect oil from filter for at least 24 hours. Completely drain oil bottles – plastic racks designed for this purpose are available on a limited basis from your local recycling coordinator. Take oil, filter and bottles to a recycling center. Call your recycling coordinator or DHEC's Recycling Hot Line at **1-800-768-7348** for a site near you.

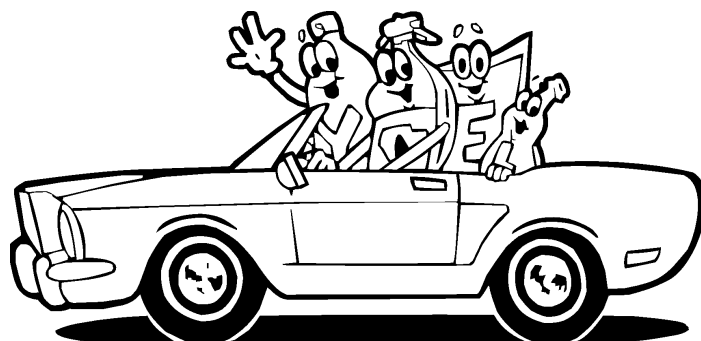


## Automobile Batteries and Tires

When purchasing tires or a car battery, give the retailer your old tires and battery so they can be properly recycled. Many recycling centers across South Carolina also accept these items. Remember, tires and batteries are banned from all landfills, so do the right thing and recycle.

# More Tips on How to be a 'Green' Driver

- Drive at moderate speeds to save fuel. According to the U.S. EPA, a vehicle loses about 1 percent in fuel economy for every one mile above 55 m.p.h. that it is driven.
- Maintain your vehicle on a regular basis. It will operate more efficiently and emit fewer pollutants. Make sure your air and fuel filters are clean.
- Don't idle your engine for long periods. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that for 145 million passenger vehicles idling five minutes per day, about 4 million gallons of gasoline are used.
- Empty the trunk. Extra clothes, tools and other stuff all add extra weight to your car.
- Buy fuel-efficient vehicles.
- Go easy on the brakes and gas pedal. Accelerate gradually.
- Use your air conditioning only when necessary.
- Plan your trips wisely. Combine errands into one trip.
- Keep tires inflated at the recommended level. Underinflation can waste up to 5 percent of a car's fuel. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, nearly 4 million gallons of gasoline could be saved nationwide every day for every one pound per square inch (PSI) of tire underinflation.
- Your vehicle's tires are the direct connect between you and the road. Maintain alignment and rotate them every 6,000 - 8,000 miles.



**DID YOU KNOW?** Do-it-yourself oil changers (DIYers) in South Carolina recycled more than 1 million gallons of used oil in 1999. In addition, DIYers recycled 238 tons of used oil filters and 69 tons of used oil bottles.



Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling  
**1-800-768-7348**  
[www.scdhec.net/recycle](http://www.scdhec.net/recycle)

DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling FYIs provide general information on environmental topics. Readers are encouraged to reproduce this material. For more information about solid waste issues, please call **1-800-768-7348** or visit our Web site at [www.scdhec.net/recycle](http://www.scdhec.net/recycle). Please send written correspondence to: DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201.